

Assembly Bill No. 608

Passed the Assembly June 5, 2007

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate September 11, 2007

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2007, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Section 14838 of the Government Code, relating to state contracting.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 608, De La Torre. State contracting: small business preference.

The Small Business Procurement and Contract Act requires the directors of the Department of General Services and other state agencies entering into contracts for the provision of goods, information technology, and services to the state, and in the construction of state facilities, to provide for a preference up to and including 5% for any bid to small businesses and microbusinesses, or nonsmall businesses that provide for small business and microbusiness subcontractor participation, in solicitations where an award is to be made to the lowest responsible bidding meeting specifications.

This bill would increase the maximum percentage of the bidding preference afforded by the directors of the Department of General Services and other state agencies to small businesses and microbusinesses, or nonsmall businesses that provide for small business and microbusiness subcontractor participation to 10%.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 14838 of the Government Code is amended to read:

14838. In order to facilitate the participation of small business, including microbusiness, in the provision of goods, information technology, and services to the state, and in the construction, including alteration, demolition, repair, or improvement, of state facilities, the directors of General Services and other state agencies that enter those contracts, each within their respective areas of responsibility, shall do all of the following:

(a) Establish goals, consistent with those established by the Office of Small Business Certification and Resources, for the extent of participation of small businesses, including microbusinesses,

in the provision of goods, information technology, and services to the state, and in the construction of state facilities.

(b) Provide for small business preference, or nonsmall business preference for bidders that provide for small business and microbusiness subcontractor participation, in the award of contracts for goods, information technology, services, and construction, as follows:

(1) In solicitations where an award is to be made to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications, the preference to small business and microbusiness shall be 10 percent of the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications. The preference to nonsmall business bidders that provide for small business or microbusiness subcontractor participation shall be, up to a maximum of 10 percent of the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications, determined according to rules and regulations established by the Department of General Services.

(2) In solicitations where an award is to be made to the highest scored bidder based on evaluation factors in addition to price, the preference to small business or microbusiness shall be 10 percent of the highest responsible bidder's total score. The preference to nonsmall business bidders that provide for small business or microbusiness subcontractor participation shall be up to a maximum 10 percent of the highest responsible bidder's total score, determined according to rules and regulations established by the Department of General Services.

(3) The preferences under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not be awarded to a noncompliant bidder and shall not be used to achieve any applicable minimum requirements.

(4) The preference under paragraph (1) shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for any bid, and the combined cost of preferences granted pursuant to paragraph (1) and any other law shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). In bids in which the state has reserved the right to make multiple awards, this fifty thousand dollar (\$50,000) maximum preference cost shall be applied, to the extent possible, so as to maximize the dollar participation of small businesses, including microbusiness, in the contract award.

(c) Give special consideration to small businesses and microbusinesses by both:

(1) Reducing the experience required.

(2) Reducing the level of inventory normally required.

(d) Give special assistance to small businesses and microbusinesses in the preparation and submission of the information requested in Section 14310.

(e) Under the authorization granted in Section 10163 of the Public Contract Code, make awards, whenever feasible, to small business and microbusiness bidders for each project bid upon within their prequalification rating. This may be accomplished by dividing major projects into subprojects so as to allow a small business or microbusiness contractor to qualify to bid on these subprojects.

(f) Small business and microbusiness bidders qualified in accordance with this chapter shall have precedence over nonsmall business bidders in that the application of any bidder preference for which nonsmall business bidders may be eligible under this subdivision or any law shall not result in the denial of the award to a small business or microbusiness bidder. In the event of a precise tie between the low responsible bid of a bidder meeting specifications of a small business or microbusiness, and the low responsible bid of a bidder meeting the specifications of a disabled veteran-owned small business or microbusiness, the contract shall be awarded to the disabled veteran-owned small business or microbusiness. This subdivision applies if the small business or microbusiness bidder is the lowest responsible bidder, as well as if the small business or microbusiness bidder is eligible for award as the result of application of the small business and microbusiness bidder preference granted by subdivision (b).

Approved _____, 2007

Governor